

We claim:

1. A method for making syndicated content available on-line with a content controller system, comprising:

- a. maintaining a database of previously registered content items and distribution parameters associated with each of the registered content items;
- b. receiving a request to register an additional content item with associated distribution parameters;
- c. determining whether there is a conflict between the distribution parameters of the additional content item and distribution parameters of previously registered content items; and
- d. registering the additional content item if there is no conflict.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- e. receiving a request from an online content purchaser to purchase a specific registered content item;
- f. identifying one or more properties of the online content purchaser;
- g. determining whether there is a conflict between the one or more properties of the online content purchaser and the distribution parameters associated with the specific registered content item; and
- h. delivering the specific registered content item to the online content purchaser if there is no conflict.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the registered content items are selected from films, theatrical performances, sporting events, music performances, magazine subscriptions, newspaper subscriptions, newsletters, entertainment, information, video feeds, audio feeds, television broadcasts, radio broadcasts, news reports, and combinations thereof.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the distribution parameters are selected from pricing of the content for a purchaser, cost of distribution by the content distributor, time period for distribution of the content, geographical areas to distribute or not to distribute the content, the

bandwidth over which the content may be distributed, purchaser properties targeted for distribution or blocked from distribution, content description and classification, exclusivity of distribution from competing content providers, and combinations thereof.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more properties of the online content purchaser are selected from purchaser identification, geographical location, income, age, business classification, demography or combinations thereof.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

- i. allowing the online content purchaser to access the content controller system;
- j. collecting information from the purchaser; and
- k. storing the collected information in a purchaser database on the content controller system, wherein the collected information is selected from purchaser properties, credit card number, payment method or combinations thereof.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein purchaser properties are selected from purchaser identification, geographical location, income, age, business classification, demography or combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising

issuing a user identification and password to the purchaser for accessing the content controller system, and

storing the user identification and password in the purchaser database.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more properties of the online content purchase includes the geographical location of the purchaser and wherein the geographical location is identified by a method selected from asking the purchaser to provide the geographical location on the Web page and determining the location automatically through the purchaser's IP address by the content controller server.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether there is conflict between the distribution parameters of the new content and registered content comprises:

e. comparing the requested distribution parameters with the distribution parameters of the registered content items; and

f. denying registration of the additional content item if the proposed distribution parameters conflict with the distribution parameters of the registered content.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

g. receiving a modified request to register the additional content item with modified distribution parameters to remove conflict with the distribution parameters of the registered content, and

h. repeating steps c and d.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the request to register is received from a content provider selected from a new content provider and a current content provider.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the request to register provides the requested distribution parameters in computer readable format to the content controller server.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising

e. comparing the requested distribution parameters with business parameters established for the content controller server; and

f. denying registration of the additional content item if the proposed distribution parameters conflict with the business parameters.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the business parameters are selected from copyright law considerations, objectionable content, purchaser demand for types of content, cost of distributing content, distribution hardware availability, and combinations thereof.

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16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
- g. modifying the proposed distribution parameters to remove conflict with the business policy parameters of the content controller, and
 - h. repeating steps c through f.
17. A system for controlling online content distribution comprising:
- a content controller server,
 - at least one database containing registered content, registered content distribution parameters, content distributor business policy parameters, and purchaser parameters, and
 - a parameter conflict detector, wherein new content having distribution parameters not in conflict with the distribution parameters of registered content is registered and made available to purchasers.
18. The system of claim 17, further comprising;
- a purchaser geography detector,
 - a business policy parameter conflict detector, wherein new content having distribution parameters not in conflict with the business policy parameters is registered and made available to purchasers and wherein the purchaser geography detector identifies the purchaser's geographical location.
19. The system of claim 18, wherein the business policy parameters are selected from copyright law considerations, objectionable content ban, purchaser demand for types of content, cost of distributing content, distribution hardware availability and combinations thereof
20. The system of claim 17, wherein at least one database comprises content selected from films, theatrical performances, sporting events, music performances, magazine subscriptions, newspaper subscriptions, newsletters, entertainment, information, video feeds, audio feeds, television broadcasts, radio broadcasts, news reports, or combinations thereof

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21. The system of claim 17, wherein the distribution parameters are selected from distribution price, time period for distributing content, bandwidth used for distributing content, purchaser properties, content description and classification and combinations thereof.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein purchaser properties are selected from purchaser identification, geographical location, income, age, business classification, demography or combinations thereof.

23. A computer program product including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:

a. maintaining instructions for maintaining a database of previously registered content items and exclusive distribution parameters associated with each of the registered content items;

b. receiving instructions for receiving a request to register an additional content item with associated exclusive distribution parameters;

c. determining instructions for determining whether there is a conflict between the exclusive distribution parameters of the additional content item and exclusive distribution parameters of previously registered content items; and

d. registering instructions for registering the additional content item if there is no conflict.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

e. receiving instructions for receiving a request from an online content purchaser to purchase a specific registered content item;

f. identifying instructions for identifying one or more properties of the online content purchaser;

g. determining instructions for determining whether there is a conflict between the one or more properties of the online content purchaser and the exclusive distribution parameters associated with the specific registered content item; and

h. delivering instructions for delivering the specific registered content item to the online content purchaser if there is no conflict.

25. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the registered content items are selected from films, theatrical performances, sporting events, music performances, magazine subscriptions, newspaper subscriptions, newsletters, entertainment, information, video feeds, audio feeds, television broadcasts, radio broadcasts, news reports, and combinations thereof.

26. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the exclusive distribution parameters are selected from pricing of the content for a purchaser, cost of distribution by the content distributor, time period for distribution of the content, geographical areas to distribute or not to distribute the content, the bandwidth over which the content may be distributed, purchaser properties targeted for distribution or blocked from distribution, content description and classification, exclusivity of distribution from competing content providers, and combinations thereof.

27. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the one or more properties of the online content purchaser are selected from purchaser identification, geographical location, income, age, business classification, demography or combinations thereof.

28. The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:

- i. allowing instructions for allowing the online content purchaser to access the content controller system;
- j. collecting instructions for collecting information from the purchaser; and
- k. storing instructions for storing the collected information in a purchaser database on the content controller system, wherein the collected information is selected from purchaser properties, credit card number, payment method or combinations thereof.

29. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein purchaser properties are selected from purchaser identification, geographical location, income, age, business classification, demography or combinations thereof.

30. The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising

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issuing instructions for issuing a user identification and password to the purchaser for accessing the content controller system, and

storing instructions for storing the user identification and password in the purchaser database.

31. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the one or more properties of the online content purchase includes the geographical location of the purchaser and wherein the geographical location is identified by a method selected from asking the purchaser to provide the geographical location on the Web page and determining the location automatically through the purchaser's IP address by the content controller server.

32. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the determining instructions for determining whether there is conflict between the exclusive distribution parameters of the new content and registered content comprises:

e. comparing instructions for comparing the requested exclusive distribution parameters with the exclusive distribution parameters of the registered content items; and

f. denying instructions for denying registration of the additional content item if the proposed exclusive distribution parameters conflict with the exclusive distribution parameters of the registered content.

33. The computer program product of claim 32, further comprising:

g. receiving instructions for receiving a modified request to register the additional content item with modified exclusive distribution parameters to remove conflict with the exclusive distribution parameters of the registered content, and

h. repeating instructions c and d.

34. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the request to register is received from a content provider selected from a new content provider and a current content provider.

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35. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the request to register provides the requested exclusive distribution parameters in computer readable format to the content controller server.

36. The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising

e. comparing instructions for comparing the requested exclusive distribution parameters with business parameters established for the content controller server; and

f. denying instructions for denying registration of the additional content item if the proposed exclusive distribution parameters conflict with the business parameters.

37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the business parameters are selected from copyright law considerations, objectionable content, purchaser demand for types of content, cost of distributing content, distribution hardware availability, and combinations thereof.

38. The computer program product of claim 36, further comprising:

g. modifying instructions for modifying the proposed exclusive distribution parameters to remove conflict with the business policy parameters of the content controller, and

h. repeating instructions c through f.

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